

18. THE FEEDING HABITS OF THE CLIFF RACER,  
*COLUBER RHODORHACHIS* (JAN.)

While conducting a survey of reptiles of Poonch town and its vicinity (Jammu and Kashmir) recently, one of us (B.D.S.) caught a specimen of the Cliff Racer, *Coluber rhodorhachis* (Jan.) in the act of devouring another colubrid, *Sphalerosophis arenarius* (Bou-

lenger) which is worth recording.

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19. BIRTH RECORD OF THE ANDAMAN PIT VIPER  
*(TRIMERESURUS PURPUREOMACULATUS)*

(With a plate)

In June 1976 a 1 metre long female specimen of the Andaman Pit Viper was collected in the evening on the roadside near Port Blair, South Andaman. It was considerably larger than eight more specimens of this species collected in the same area and in North Andaman during the same month. The large female was brought to the Madras Snake Park and isolated in a display terrarium. On April 24th, 1977 M. Mani, Snake Keeper, noticed four live and one dead new born pit vipers in its cage. These were subsequently removed and placed in a separate enclosure for rearing. The average length of the juveniles was 14 cm.

The parent is a uniform yellow-brown, the young vary from uniform dark brown to blotched and speckled patterns of light brown.

It is suggested that the mating season for this species is in February-March and that the captive female retained viable sperm from the 1976 season mating in the wild, a phenomenon reported in the literature for many other taxa.

This is the first breeding record for this species of pit viper apparently the most common and widely distributed pit viper of the Islands. The young are feeding well on juvenile Paddy Frogs (*Rana limnocharis*)

MADRAS SNAKE PARK,  
MADRAS 600022,  
June 7, 1977.

R. WHITAKER